

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Grant Pre-Proposal Meeting

October 15, 2014

6:30pm CDT

City of Michigan City, Emergency Management Conference Room

100 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, IN 46360

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Voting: Tiffany Tolbert (Historical/Cultural Resources/Chair), Richard Morrisroe (Planner – East Chicago Planner), Ken Purze (Citizen at Large), Dan Plath (Industry/Business –NiSource), Geof Benson (Porter County), Bob Daum (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Kris Krouse (Local Natural Resource Management), Christine Livingston (Tourism)

Non-Voting: Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Kathy Luther (NIRPC)

LMCP Staff: Mike Molnar, Maggie Byrne, Derek Nimetz, Kacey Alexander, Dorreen Carey

Presentations:

Shannon Eason, administrative director with Michigan City Parks department, presented four projects that the city is currently working on.

The first project is an ADA accessible Kayak Launch System that will be constructed at Hansen Park. This project is set to begin on October 16, 2014 and is being completed in partnership with the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association. This project will be the first ADA accessible launch system of its kind in the state. The system will include a transfer bench as well as a way for users to secure their wheelchair. Since this will be a floating system, it will never need to be removed. The funding for this project came from LMCP, City of Michigan City. In-kind funds were provided by Duneland Group Engineering.

Hansen Park is also considered to be 100% ADA accessible as walkways were put in place to connect all of the parks amenities. It was also mentioned that the park department is working on updating facilities at Sprague Point marina to include laundry, showers and even overnight camping, for users of the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

The second project presented was the Old Lighthouse Museum Lantern Room Restoration Project. This project involved rebuilding the lantern room that was built in 1973 and was beginning to leak. The rebuilding project included the addition of a copper roof. The funding for this project came from LMCP funds, Michigan City Council, the Redevelopment Commission, as well as the Parks Department for construction. There will be an 11am ribbon cutting ceremony on October 17th 11am at the Old Lighthouse Museum.

Next, Shannon spoke about the City's Sheridan Beach public access, land management, and implementation plan. The city accepted the proposal on May 7, 2014 that includes improved access to the beach by means of clear pathways. The current pathways at the beach will also be consolidated in order to minimize damage to the dunes and ecological restorations will be completed. The funding for this project comes from an LMCP grant with city matching funds.

The final project discussed was Fedder's Alley Secondary Dune Habitat Restoration. This project includes work on nine acres of land and is currently in the process of an intensive removal of invasive species. Once this is completed, the plan is to plant seven acres of marram grass and two acres of transitional coastal savannah. Over the next several years, the hope is to restore a total of 66 acres. The funding from this project comes from an LMCP grant as well as a city match.

Ken Purze asked Shannon to explain the North End Redevelopment Strategy.

The purpose of this strategy is to revitalize and improve Washington Park and Zoo and the beach area that surrounds it over the next 3 to 5 years. The city is investigating installing a zip line, boardwalk, additional parking and improving access to the park. Currently, over \$3.5 million has been approved for the development of a pavilion, observation deck, and park office. The future goal is for Michigan City to become a destination Coastal community.

Old Business:

August 20, 2014 meeting minutes approved without discussion

New Business:

Coastal Grant Pre-proposals by Maggie Byrne

The LMCP has received 28 pre-proposals totaling over \$1.5 million dollars in requests for grant funds for the 2015 funding cycle. It is anticipated that the LMCP will receive approximately \$600,000 for the pass through grants program. LMCP will invite a maximum of \$900,000 of projects to submit full-proposals. This will be done to provide backup projects in the event that projects are not pursued or fail to submit full-proposals. Handouts were given out containing the list of the pre-proposals that were received and the amount requested for each project.

Based on the recommendations of the grant committee, board members were asked to accept the recommended proposals. It was also stated that voting is based on accepting the full slate of recommendations. The vote will not be on each individual proposal.

Recommended Pre-proposals

- Purdue Water Institute – Northwest Indiana Water Well Testing Program
- East Chicago Multimedia Division – Protecting Water Quality Protects Our Quality of Life
- Lake County Solid Waste Management District – Protecting Lake Michigan Water Quality Starts with Me.
- Purdue University Calumet – Ecology Education for Monitoring Biodiversity Coffee Creek Watershed.
- Purdue University Calumet – Virtual 3D Model of Septic System
- Purdue Water Institute – Smart-Phone Based Device for Monitoring Chemical Pollutants in Water
- Save the Dunes – Indiana Dunes Protection Guide for Residents
- The Nature Conservancy – Early Detection Network for Invasive Plant Species
- City of Portage Parks – Rice Property Acquisition on Salt Creek
- Lake County Parks – Thomae Land Acquisition at Deep River
- Town of Michiana Shores – Land Acquisition along White Ditch
- City of Hobart – Lake George Stabilization and Access
- Lake County Commissioners – Milroy Bridge Historic Restoration
- Town of Dune Acres – Restoration of Pitcher’s Thistle Habitat
- Town of Munster – EAB Mitigation Riparian Reforestation
- Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority – Marquette Action Plan
- Porter County Parks Foundation – Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Recommended with Conditions

- City of Gary – Marquette Park Pier
- Porter County Parks – Sunset Hill Farm Pond and Prairie Phase 2

CELCP

- City of Gary – Miller Area Land Acquisition
- Porter County Parks – Old Chicago Road Acquisition

The Mighty Acorns project was discussed. Continuing funding for the same project won’t be approved. The funds are available to help start up programs, however, funds are not provided

to maintain projects that have already been put into place. The Grant Committee could look at funding a program that was adding a module and expanding.

The Grant Committee recommendations were accepted as voted on by the CAB members.

Small grants were reviewed and voted on individually. There were five small grants submitted for the 2015 funding cycle year.

Small Grants Approved

- Michigan City Area Schools – Bringing History to Life
- Porter County Health Dept. – Public Health Outreach
- Isaak Walton League of America – Porter County Chapter – Great Lakes Watershed Curriculum

Maggie Byrne asked if there should be a minimum for small grants. The committee decided that they did not want to set a minimum as it may alienate a group from applying. They do not want to set up more rules and make things more complicated.

Staff Reports:

Coastal Staffing and Updates by Mike Molnar

Kacey Alexander has been hired as the new Operations Manager. The seasonal staff position of the grant specialist position is currently open and Maggie will be looking to fill the position in the next couple of weeks.

312 review with NOAA. Expecting documents from NOAA in early December. Will keep the group posted.

Fall Coastal Zone Regional meeting in PA was held three weeks ago. One of the discussion points was concerning 306A projects and NOAA NEPA requirements.

Coastal States Organization Meeting in Oregon – involved much discussion regarding resilient communities.

Septic Committee – by Dorreen Carey

14 communities distributed 2,500 brochures for Septic Week, which was a success. There were media, social media coverage for the week with four newspapers in the area publishing articles on the week.

Announcements:

Next meeting December 17th, morning meeting, 10am in Lake County

River Poster Unveiling October 20th, 1pm, Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

Northwest Paddling Association Sandhill Crane Paddle on October 26th

State Historical Marker of the Stewart Settlement House, October 31st, 12pm, Gary